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Mesa Humanitarian Center *service felt around the world*

Roger Button, supervisor of the Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center, receives a donation from Emerson Jones, who regularly brings four to five boxes of hand-crafted wooden cars and toys.



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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Monument
Unveiled

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Foundation Honors
Marie Osmond

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Adults Help
City of Mesa



The BEEHIVE

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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CORPORATE OFFICE
9436 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 11-M
Las Vegas, NV 89134

PUBLISHER
The Beehive, LLC
Amie Taylor
Info@ArizonaBeehive.com

EDITOR
Cecily Markland
Editor@ArizonaBeehive.com

ADVERTISING
Linda Hartmann
Regional Sales Mgr.
(480) 844-9328

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Leslie Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jill B. Adair
Karen Gardner
Kristie Fairbanks
Rebecca McCormick
Tina Scott
Valerie Ipson
Linda Turley-Hansen
Rob Farwell
Stephanie Abney
Rachel Trim

CIRCULATION
Linda Hartmann
(480) 844-9328

LOCAL OFFICE
2410 E. Kramer Cir.
Mesa, AZ 85213

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Mesa Humanitarian Center provides hub for Selfless service

The hum of productivity rivals that of any well-tooled manufacturing facility—yet the differences are astounding!

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

First, at the Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center, no one gets paid, and no money is exchanged for supplies, as nearly everything is donated. Not only that, but in addition to the countless hours and skill that go into each finished product, an extra something is added as well.

Each quilt patch is pieced together with love; each bootie crocheted with compassion.

Each doll is cleaned and dressed with the tenderest care.

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Joy McDermid (l) and Jane Theobald, missionaries at the Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center, pin a quilt to get it ready for binding before it will be shipped to somewhere in Arizona or to Salt Lake, for distribution to countries around the world.

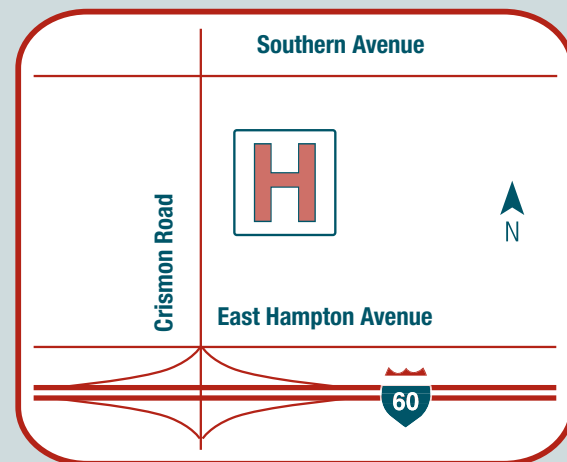


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Mesa Humanitarian Center
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Every newborn kit, every hygiene kit, every ABC book is a work of selfless service—for recipients the givers will never meet.

The Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center is, in essence, a distribution and service hub. The center operates under priesthood authority, with President Ahlstrom, of the Mesa Lehi Stake, as agent stake president. Donations come in and go out daily and where service missionaries and volunteers work tirelessly to complete items that will be used across Arizona and throughout the world.

With no production schedules and no quotas to meet, it may appear, at first glance, that there is no rhyme or reason for how things all come together; yet, the system works like clockwork, perfectly providing thousands of items for individuals in need.

The best way to understand the workings is to see them in action.

Step inside the door on the west side of the building known as the Interstake Center at 830 E. 2nd Street in Mesa, and you'll be greeted by Roger Button, or his wife, Verdell, the supervisors at the Humanitarian Center, or by one of the other 28 missionaries who serve there

In the first room, you'll see shelves on every wall filled with fabric, all donated from individuals, then sorted by color. At the large center table, missionaries, with

rotary cutters in hand, cut fabric into quilt-patch-size pieces.

You won't have to watch long before someone arrives to pick up quilt kits to tie, school bags to stuff, or other materials for projects that will be finished by individuals or as part of ward or stake projects. Or, you may see others come to drop off yet another donation, either of finished items or more supplies.

You may see Emerson Jones, of the Black Canyon Ward in the Glendale Stake, who, for the past five years, has made nearly monthly contribution of four or five boxes filled with 250 wooden cars and other toys. Or, perhaps it will be Jane Porter, Gilbert Val Vista Stake's Humanitarian Leader, delivering the five or six quilts and boxes of newborn kits or hygiene completed at her stake's bi-monthly humanitarian days.

One day, the delivery was pick-up truck load of yarn, from someone who chose to remain anonymous.

"Things like this come in all the time," says Brother Button. "We had just said we needed more yarn, then, the very next day, we get a donation like this. This happens all the time."

While the center can't accept money, they welcome donations and, says Brother

Continued on pg. A6



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Mary Anne Koski sorts dolls in the "doll room" at the Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center, where dolls are washed, sanitized and made like new for distribution to children who may never have had a doll in their lives.

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Button, “It’s amazing how much stuff comes in and gets used.”

Many of the finished items are taken to Deseret Industries, then distributed to bishops for members of their wards who are in need. Others are given to local organizations across Arizona, or boxed and shipped to Salt Lake, where they are then sent to all parts of the world.

Those items include school bags, filled with paper, pencils, erasers, rulers and scissors; hygiene kits with soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes; and newborn kits with a gown, receiving blanket, diapers, and soap. Added to each kit is a printed insert indicating, in several languages, that it has been donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“Salt Lake tells us what the current needs are, or hospitals or local organizations may call to say, ‘We really could use some newborn kits,’” says Dianne Harris, a missionary who oversees this aspect of the center.

In addition to what was sent to Salt Lake in October 2006, items from the Mesa center were sent to nearly 40 different Arizona organizations, including a women’s shelter

in Apache Junction; police and fire stations in Mesa and Phoenix; hospitals and schools around the Valley; and to groups like Paz de Cristo, Care Partnership and the Somali Refugee Association.

Kandee McKellar, of the Gateway Park Ward in the Phoenix East Stake, does the bookwork for the center, including tracking the thousands of service hours contributed and keeping the list of organizations receiving

finished items.
“I was taking shipments to Phoenix one day and as I took book bags to one school, someone commented, ‘Oh,

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At the Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center, Dianne Harris, a service missionary, poses by some of the items that will be used to fill hygiene kits for people in need around the world.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

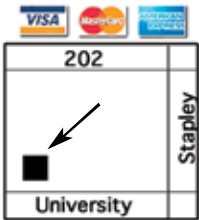
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you're the Mormons,' she says. "They were so grateful to get them."

"There are some really neat miracles that happen," she adds

Some of those miracles happen in the center's doll room, where plastic dolls come in dirty and often in need of repair. Most are dolls that have been donated to Desert Industries.

They are washed and sanitized, dressed in handmade clothes and dresses; their hair is groomed and they end up nearly better than new, ready to be enjoyed by children who may never have had a doll in their lives.

In the center's "pin and trim room," the edges of tied quilts are trimmed, then, they go to individuals like Doreen Bloomer, of the Mesa Beverly Ward in the Maricopa Stake, to be bound.

I've been coming here for 11 years," says Sister Bloomer, who is serving a mission at the center. "I come three days a week and, on a good day I bind an average of about 12 to 14 quilts."

"It gives me something to do. I feel good doing things to help other people," Sister Bloomer says.

In another room, Jose Gamez, who is blind, works three days a week, tying quilts.

"He ties six quilts a day by himself," says Brother Button.

Freda Schnebly, of the Olive Ward

in the Mesa Stake, has enjoyed serving as a missionary at the humanitarian center.

"I like knowing I'm not just helping my community, but through the Church we can offer goods to all countries around the world and give them a part of what our Church is about," she says.

"I like feeling the spirit as I work with the people here in this building. You make such good friends as you work together. It's so much fun to see what can be done," says Ann Cherrington, who, with her husband, George, has worked in the center three days a week every winter since 1994.

"Anyone who wants to serve and has two or three hours can come in and we would find a job for them to do," Sister McKellar explains.

"We can also be a resource for stake and ward humanitarian projects. We can

provide materials," she says. "We get so much, we like people to come and use it."

Organizations and individuals, including Scouts wanting to do Eagle projects, can visit the center to get ideas and pick up materials or, by appointment, can arrange to work there in the center. Ideas for helping with the Church's humanitarian efforts is also available at: www.humanitarian-services.org

*"I like knowing
I'm not just helping
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all countries around
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them a part of what
our Church
is about."*

The Mesa LDS Humanitarian Center

is located at 830 East 2nd Avenue, and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For inquiries, or to schedule an appointment, please call:

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Tempe Bishop receives Community Service award

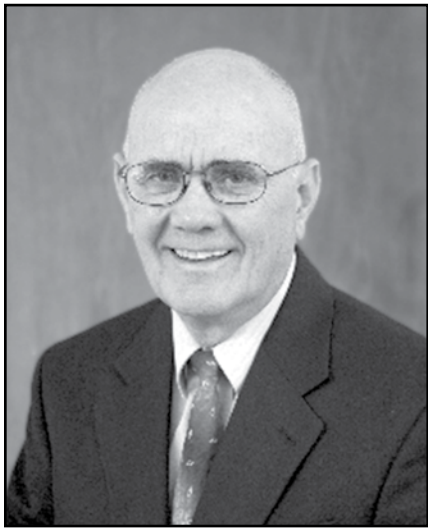


Photo by Mishler Photography

Dale Despain was recently recognized by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce with the 2007 Outstanding Community Leadership Award for exemplary leadership and volunteer service.

By Rachel
Faas Trim
The Beehive

Dale Despain, bishop of the 2nd Ward in the Tempe University Stake, is no stranger to community service. The former teacher and Tempe Elementary School District administrator has spent nearly four decades working and volunteering in an effort to improve the quality of life in his

Tempe community. For his extensive volunteer service, Bishop Despain was recently recognized by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Tempe Leadership presented him with the 2007 Outstanding Community Leadership Award for exemplary leadership and volunteer service at its 10th Annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions.

"Let people know you are willing to help, and they'll put you to work," Bishop Despain explains. "There are plenty of volunteer opportunities that you can get involved in."

In 1970, as a new resident of Tempe, Dale first volunteered to help with the annual United Way drive. He became involved in the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and later served as a board member of the Tempe Impact Education Foundation, which supports children in Tempe Schools who need resources to enrich their educational experience.

He also has supported the needs of his community by serving as a member of the Tempe Neighborhood Advisory Commission, as a volunteer with the Citizens Review Board, and as a member of the Tempe Cares Planning

Committee.

"Members of the community have the opportunity to provide local leaders with information about what's important to the average ordinary citizen," he says. "For example, members of the Chamber of Commerce look for priorities in community groups, discuss the needs they are aware of, and try to find a common thread to better serve many people. As each volunteer serves, they can present their point of view on what will improve life in their own community."

Bishop Despain's service to his community complemented his professional career as an educator. After having taught for two years out of state, he returned to Arizona with his family in 1970 and began his employment in the Tempe Elementary School District at that time. After working 32 years in the District as a Vice Principal and Principal at three Tempe Schools, and later as an administrator at the District Office, he retired five years ago.

"The community wants you and has open arms to welcome you," Bishop Despain says. "Your offer to help will be warmly welcomed."

Dale and Marie Despain have five grown children and 19 grandchildren and he says he and his wife feel fortunate to have them all living in the Valley.



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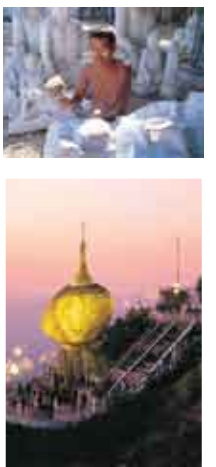
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Alan Matheson honored at ASU's College of Law

By Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

An adventurous move to Arizona in December of 1967 proved to be the "right move" for Alan Matheson and his young family. As a founding faculty member at ASU's College of Law, he took a chance in creating his own future at a virtually unknown law school away from his home. He left behind other employment opportunities and a large extended family in Utah. Alan and his wife, Milicent, and their three sons have thrived in the Valley of the Sun.

As a five-time dean of the College of Law, Brother Matheson stepped in and out of administrative positions while teaching classes and meeting the needs of students and faculty. He was the dean of the college from 1979 to 1984, acting dean in 1972, and interim dean in 1978-1979, 1989, and 1997-1998. He currently teaches classes

in constitutional law and community property. Matheson has served as president of the faculty senate and as a member of countless committees at the university. He has also supported the Indian Legal Program and shepherded the plan to form the Center for the Study of Law, Science & Technology.

At a diamond jubilee reception and special celebration of Brother Matheson's 75th birthday, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law recently paid tribute to him by raising funds to endow a Professorship in his name. This endowment honors his service to the College and entices qualified candidates to join the faculty.

Brother Matheson, who is accustomed to spending his birthday quietly with his family, recalls the event. He says, "After some persuasion by a friend and colleague, I agreed to a very

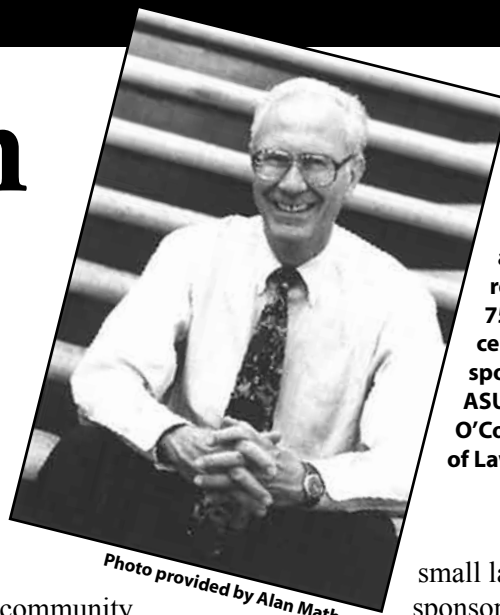


Photo provided by Alan Matheson

Friends, family and associates paid tribute to Alan Matheson at a jubilee recognition and 75th birthday celebration sponsored by ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

small law school sponsored birthday party. Much to my surprise, a large event (over 500 guests) brought family, friends and associates from in and out of state to celebrate my birthday. Also in attendance were current and former students, and friends from Church. It was a unique, unexpected, embarrassing and wonderful occasion. What a good excuse to get the whole family together and visit with friends and associates."

In addition to tributes by eight speakers, including his three sons, the celebration also included a DVD presentation with photos of Brother Matheson's life and memories shared by family, friends, and associates. To top off the evening, an Indian blanket was presented to the honoree, one of the highest honors endowed by Native Americans.

With a smile, Brother Matheson recalls his remarks after the tributes were shared that evening: "In my response, I said that very few of us get to attend our own memorial service." Matheson found the experience to be humbling. He also remembers the wonderful examples that have shaped his life.

He shares, "I've had many people influence me in my life, particularly my parents and siblings. G. Homer Durham, my teacher and mentor, is the reason I came to ASU. I am grateful to have worked with Willard Pedrick, the founding dean of the ASU Law School, and members of the original and current faculty. Many leaders and members of the Church have supported me along the way, including Stake Presidents Richard Ray, Brent Jameson, David Udall, and Dennis Barney. Most of all, my wife, Milicent, and my three sons have positively affected me. They have been a major strength to me as I have developed my testimony of Jesus Christ. They are wonderful, unselfish people, full of integrity."

Alan and Milicent have been married for 46 years. They have three grown sons. Alan Jr. and David are attorneys, and John, the youngest, is a physician. Alan and Milicent are blessed with 12 grandchildren. Brother Matheson currently serves as a bishop in Tempe University Stake's Fifth Ward.



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Maricopa Stake Commemorates “Quasquicentennial”

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Technically, it's called a “quasquicentennial,” a 125th anniversary. Yet, in the Mesa Maricopa Stake, this year's 125th anniversary of the stake's founding means more than just a new word.

To set the stage for a year of both remembering and looking forward, “each of the wards has a weekly ‘quasquicentennial minute,’ to tell stories of pioneers in the stake or other pioneers,” explains Maricopa Stake President Jerry Lewis.

“We want to help people really feel and understand the overarching theme for the year, which is to ‘Remember what great things the Lord has done for our fathers;’ and to know that the things He's done for them, he will do for us as well,” President Lewis says.

The Maricopa Stake, formed on December 10, 1882, was the 24th stake of the Church, and the third in the Arizona Territory.

“It was the largest stake for a long time,” notes President Lewis. “Now some 60 stakes have come out of that one. All the stakes in Maricopa County spring from what was once the Maricopa Stake.”

Alexander E. MacDonald was called as the first stake president. He served until 1887, when President Wilford Woodruff

called Charles Robson, who served until his death in 1894. Also called by President Woodruff was Collins R. Hakes, who was followed by John T. LeSueur, who was called by Joseph F. Smith in 1905.

After seven years, John's son, James LeSueur, was called and he served for 14 years.

In 1921, construction began on the Arizona Temple. The temple was dedicated six years later.

In 1926, James Price was called as stake president. That same year the stake offices were moved into the “Mezona,” at the corner of Main Street and Morris, which housed the stake offices for many years, and, in 1936, became the site for the stake's Bishops Storehouse.

In 1937, the Maricopa Stake initiated the Easter Pageant. Then, in 1938, the stake was divided and the Phoenix Stake was created.

The seventh stake president of the Maricopa Stake, Lorenzo Wright, was succeeded by his son, Harold Wright, who served for 22 years. James Lamar Shelley next led the stake, followed by W. Dea Montague, David K. Udall, and Wilford Andersen. When President Andersen was called to preside over the Mexico Guadalajara Mission, Jerald H. Lewis was called

as stake president.

Today, the Maricopa Stake is made up of six wards, the Beverly, Mezona, Steward, Vineyard and Westwood, which are English-speaking wards, and the Liahona 2nd Ward, a Spanish-speaking ward.

The year's 175th anniversary commemoration began with the stake leadership issuing a challenge, encouraging stake members to focus on becoming physical fit through exercise and eating healthier.

“By being more physically fit, you can become more spiritually fit,” President Lewis says.

The stake held its first annual 5k fun run in March. That same weekend, Elder Russell M. Nelson was the visiting General Authority at the stake's conference.

“We had a youth choir and they did a great job,” President Lewis says, adding that members of the choir each had a chance to visit with Elder Nelson.

President Lewis says throughout the year Young Men and Young Women

activities will focus on the theme of the celebration. Families are also encouraged to teach this principle in their homes.

President Lewis states, “As we learn from our great legacy, we can understand that these blessings are also available to us. It's a great way to strengthen faith and encourage individuals and families to be more like our faithful predecessors and more like Christ.”



Photo courtesy of Richard Webb

As Maricopa Stake celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, stake members have been challenged to remember their legacy and to find ways to come closer to Christ. In March, Elder Russell M. Nelson spoke to this theme in the stake's conference, greeted stake members and even received some artwork from seven-year-old Michael Webb. Shown at Elder Nelson's left is Stake President Jerry Lewis and Michael's dad, Richard Webb.



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30 YEARS of research donated to Mesa Regional Family History Center

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Thirty-seven large moving boxes, packed into two trailers, represented one woman's life-long hobby of genealogy research. Since those volumes of research have made their way to the Mesa Regional Family History Center, the contents of the boxes are considered an answer to prayers and are valued as a priceless gift that will benefit generations.

After more than 30 years of chronicling her family lines, 87-year-old Ann McDowell Hayes Valois, formerly of Scottsdale, packed all her family research away before moving to California.

According to Susan Porter, who serves with her husband Gordon as the director of the Mesa Regional Family History Center, Ann's family wasn't sure what to do with all of the boxes Ann had compiled.

"Someone said, 'Before we take it to the dump, let me make a few phone calls,'" Sister Porter explains.

Not members of the LDS Church, the family wasn't aware of the Center or of the Church's focus on family history.

One phone call led to another, and,

finally, Ms. Valois' daughter, Renee Walter's, made a fourth call, this one to the Family History Center.

"We thought they said there were a few boxes. There were 37," says Marilyn Crandall, the librarian at the center. She says opening the boxes was like discovering a gold mine.

"All the missionaries were salivating," says Elizabeth Wyant, herself a missionary at the Family History Center.

For her, the donation was of particular interest, since the records were from Maryland, the very area where her ancestors had settled.

"It was my Holy Grail," says Sister Wyant. "I had been thinking I needed to move to Maryland to find what I needed to find."

There in the 200 books, 80 three-ring binders, and hundreds of maps, probate records, newspaper articles and other documents was information about Sister Wyant's direct family line, information she may never have been able to find in any other way.

"Some things are probably not in publication anymore. There are things we'd



Photo by Cecily Markland

Missionaries at the Mesa Regional Family History Center, including (l to r) Sisters Susan Porter, Virginia Wyatt, Elizabeth Wyant and Marilyn Crandall, were thrilled with a donation of 37 boxes of well-documented research, particularly when some missionaries found the donation contained information about their own family lines.

not be able to find or replace," she says.

"[Mrs. Valois] presented me with more work than I have time on earth for. Even I have trouble fathoming how much of a gift she's given," says Sister Wyant, who is related to "seven or eight of the surnames" on the list of those researched by Mrs. Valois.

Another missionary at the center, Virginia Wyatt, says she, too, expects to find information about her family lines.

"I've been working for three years to find some of my people from Maryland," she says.

According to Sister Crandall, Mrs. Valois followed research protocols that are familiar to Church members.

"We're taught that when you find a vital statistic for someone, you find three sources for it," Sister Crandall says, adding that in the donated research, "Every family group sheet is documented."

Mrs. Valois belonged to several organizations, including Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the

American Colonists, Society of the Ark and the Dove, and Magna Carta Dames. The research she has done not only is a record of family lineage, but is also a historical record that traces the early events of the Maryland/Chesapeake Bay area.

Sister Crandall says she and others are working to catalogue and archive what has come in from Mrs. Valois, adding that the ultimate goal is to make these records accessible to as many people as possible.

"The whole idea is that these get in the hands of families who can use them," says Sister Porter.

Sister Porter says the list of surnames researched by Mrs. Valois is available at the Mesa Regional Family History Center at 41 S. Hobson in Mesa. The center is open Monday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. To contact the center, call (480) 964-1200 or, for a great deal of searchable information, visit www.mesarfhc.org.

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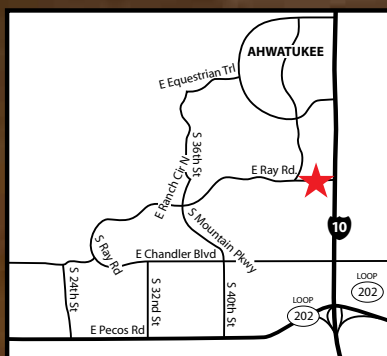
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Mother of the Year

Arizona

takes a stand for families around the world

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A mother who has taken the responsibilities seriously to rear, guide and protect her own four children, Sharon R. Slater is also known as a strong advocate of children and families everywhere. She has championed that cause in countless local, national and international settings.

Now, she's been named the 2007 Arizona Mother of the Year by American Mothers, Inc., an interfaith, non-profit, non-political organization that works to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and the home.

In that role, Sharon will continue to stand for those things she holds most dear. She encourages others to do the same.

"The greatest service we can give is within our own homes," Sharon says.

Yet, Sister Slater believes that as time and circumstances allow, "if we have opportunities to serve, we should."

"It really takes no time to get informed, or to click on a link and make your voice heard, or to get out and vote," she says.

Sister Slater, a member of the Gilbert 9th Ward in the Val Vista Stake, has made her voice heard on many fronts.

She is president of Family Watch International (FWI), which is "another voice to preserve and protect the family at the international, national, and state level," Sharon says. She adds that FWI works "to promote stable family life through education and advocacy by promoting marriage, fatherhood, motherhood, parenthood, life ethics, and social cultural and religious values."

She is co-founder and president, since 1999, of Global Helping to Advance Women and Children (GH),



Photo by Randy Jensen

Sharon Slater, of Gilbert, was named by American Mothers Inc. as the 2007 Arizona Mother of the Year. The Slater family, shown here, includes, (back l to r) Julie, Sharon, Michael, (front l to r) Tyler, Sharon's husband Greg, and Jessica.

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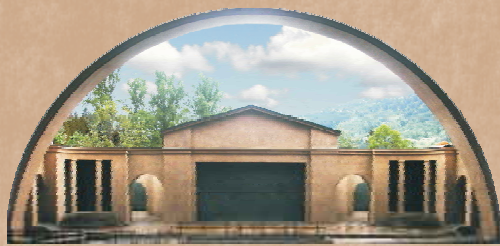
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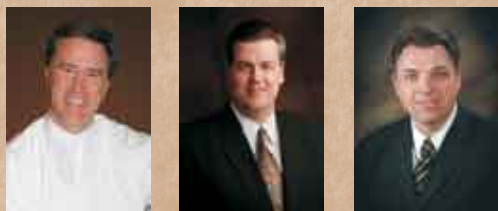


Continued on pg. A17

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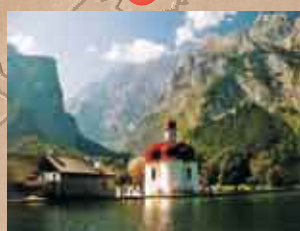
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